

Market House Museum's American Family Trivia Game

(Answers are on the bottom of page two.)



1. To men and women who followed the manners and required communications of the early years of our nation, flowers sent to another would indicate certain feelings. To send pansies, signaled friendship; and a bouquet of iris said "My compliments." A daffodil sent a bolder message, "Will you return my affection?" If you sent a bouquet of ivy, blue convolvulus, and straw stems, you were asking "Will you unite with me in the bonds of marriage?" Today, people just send pretty flowers of any kind to loved ones. But what did a snapdragon sent in reply signify, back years ago? A) Yes B) No C) Maybe



2. Valentines are taken for granted today by schoolchildren the world over. But the cards that were originally sent were lacy confections meant to let a certain person you admired of your deeper feelings and intentions, or just convey a warm acknowledgment of your friendship and esteem. A lady named Esther Howland took up her scissors, glue, and paper and began making dainty valentines, using lace, satin ribbon, cutwork doilies, colored lithographs of cavorting cupids or beautiful flowers, and some sort of loving, hand lettered sentiment. Her brother was the salesman for her cottage industry. His first sales orders totaled what in their first year of the business (mid 1850s?) A) \$5,000 B) \$125 C) \$585.



3. In the days before photographs and selfies, one had a hard time remembering the details of a loved one, when distance could interfere. Perhaps you might want an image close to hand, even if you did get to see them on a daily or weekly basis. The solution around this dilemma was oftentimes had by having a miniature portrait painted of the loved one. These could be worn in a locket around the neck, or in a brooch, bracelet, or set upon a small table in one's drawing room. These were much less expensive than a full sized portrait and could be transported much more easily. Also popular to place within jewelry or frames was another form of reminder, often seen in Victorian parlors. What was that? A) popsicle sticks with drawn messages upon them B) hair of a loved one, twisted into feathery flowers or other designs C) full size cast iron statues of loved ones.



4. When a young couple married in the early years of our nation, their friends often gave them a noisy, rambunctious party after the ceremony, which went on most of the night. When newlyweds wanted to be alone by themselves the most, this party was designed to keep them separate and in the midst of a huge gathering! What was the name given to these early day wedding parties? A) a Shivaree B) a Reception C) a Caterwaul.



5. When a young girl became old enough to learn to crochet, knit, or sew, she was admonished to begin to make doilies for tabletops, crochet afghans or blankets, sew bed sheets and fancy pillowcases, and make nicely embroidered tablecloths and matching napkins, and the like. These would be put away for day she would need them. What were they commonly designated as being? A) her emergency supplies in case she married a poor man B) her bridal hope chest to begin housekeeping with C) what she would have to use in case her husband died young.



6. After a couple married, they usually had a baby very soon after. Today, we all know and remember singing a tune to little ones when trying to put them to sleep at naptime. It starts off with “Rock a bye baby, in the treetop, when the wind blows, the cradle will rock.” It was written by a 15 year old girl, Effie Crockett. What year was it written in? A) 1829 B) 1852 C) 1872.



7. Once you were a proud parent, you wanted to show off your little baby to admiring friends and neighbors, and take the baby out for a breath of fresh air and sunshine when the weather was cooperative. Mrs. Charles Burton pushed a never seen conveyance in New York City’s Battery Park, made especially for her baby by her husband. It was called a “baby carriage” by the Burtons. What year did this helpful invention take place? A) 1803 B) 1825 C) 1848.



8. When the children grew up, one wanted to make sure that the proposed marriage of the offspring would be happy and long lasting. Engagements normally would last 6 months or better, but in wartime, war weddings might take place in a more impromptu manner and at a quicker pace. Who had more war weddings in 1942? A) England B) Russia C) United States.



9. As elders got older, they were usually cared for at home by other members of the family and they were respected for their age, and loved because of all that they had seen and gone through for the family’s sake during their lifetime. One family unit might have great grandparents, grandparents, parents, and children living under one roof on a large farm, or even a city dwelling. What came into common use without stigma attached, however, in the 1950s? A) home health consultants B) hospice care C) nursing homes for the aged.



10. Funeral homes became popular in the early 1900’s. Before that, the services were usually held at home or at the local church, or even graveside, with simple procedures followed. What was the occasion called (in rural America) when the dead were laid out at home, a meal served, and family sat up with the dead? A) a wake B) sitting with the dead C) a memorial service.

Answers: 1-B; 2-A; 3-B; 4- A; 5-B; 6-C; 7-C; 8-C; 9-C; 10-B.